REMARKS

Claims 7-20, 25-27 and 30-32 are pending in this application and indicated as allowed. By this Amendment, rejected claims 1, 2, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 33-35 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter of these claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1) because these amendments cancel rejected claims leaving only claims pending that are indicated in the Office Action as allowed. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 13, states that claim 7-20, 25-27 and 30-32 are allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants appreciate the allowance of these claims.

This Amendment is undertaken in view of the allowance of these claims.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1, 2, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patents Nos. 5,642,135 to Noguchi et al. and 5,717,793 to Ushida et al. The cancellation of the enumerated claims renders this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application based on the allowance of claims 7-20, 25-27 and 30-32, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted

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MAC:DAT/axl

Date: April 3, 2006

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